

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (Excused), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin (Late)

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Stephenson

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Mike Asante', Planner Coordinator, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission stated that the last update of the plan was in 2002.

- He stated that first part of the plan is to invite all businesses, churches and residents in Prince George's County. They will be seeking participation in the next eight months.
- He stated that they are looking at the demographics in the County comprehensively.
- He stated that the general plan is a blue print of the County. They will start with unemployment. They will identify growth areas in the County using the three tiers.

- They will verify the plan after 10-30 years. They are putting mechanisms in place for Plan MD, the guide for Maryland.
- They are targeting sixteen Metro Stations under the Transit Oriented Development Plan. They are looking at the development patterns in the County with regards to housing.
- The question is “How do you provide housing that is in a good location, Green Economy will attract others.
- The Community Engagement will have various interest groups to help you stay engaged by Facebook and Twitter. The community meetings are important as well.
- They are in the beginning stages of the plan. They are briefing the stakeholders, planners and County Council. The information is available on their website. They have seven months to complete the plan with a final approval in the March 2014. The website is www.planpgc2035.com.
- He stated that the zoning is a separate piece. He stated that the general plan will take precedence. They may need to update the plan.
- Council President Porter stated that the Council may need to have another meeting with him.
- He stated that they have a planner assigned to our area. He will provide the list of information.

2.2. Marc S. Bashoor, Fire Chief for Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department

- He stated that the Career Staff will be moved from Seat Pleasant Fire Department effective Monday, March 4, 2013.
- He stated that the call volume is higher in Seat Pleasant and he will dedicate ten more units after the completion of the staff.
- The staffing will be dedicated to Capitol Heights. He stated that he can dedicate an engine and ambulance.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know that based on the call averages and response time, what can the community do to eliminate a fire? Chief Bashoor stated education to the community is helpful. He stated that the fire house will inspect and install a smoke detector.
- Chief Bashoor stated that the condition of the stations in the County if he had to rate them. He stated that the apparatus would be at a 5, the stations at a 6. He stated that some of the volunteer companies have a strong aim in fundraising. He stated that they have 810 career fire fighters, 1,560 volunteer Fire Fighters that are certified to wear a mask.
- He stated that they will continue to fund the Volunteer Departments.

- Mayor Grant stated that we will meet with the Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that we donate to them annually. He stated that they support the City and the City wide events.
- He stated that after he meets with the Fire Department. He will meet with Councilwoman Toles and Chief Bashoor's boss, as he will be fighting for the City. He feels that we are not gaining in this situation.
- Mayor Grant stated the Chief can call upon him and the Council to speak to the County Council.
- Chief stated that he will need the assistance of the Mayor to advocate for more monies for the Volunteer Fire Fighters.
- Mayor Grant wanted to know how we can be a part of the Advisory Council. Diana Fennell, Community Advisory Coordinator stated that they meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Fire Services building from 11:00am-12:00pm.
- She stated that the Citizens are appointed by the Fire Chief.
- Chief Bashoor asked Mayor Grant to be a part of the Citizens Committee. Mayor Grant thanked the Chief and accepted his invitation.
- He requested that Ms. Fennell provide him with the meeting location and address.
- Mayor Grant welcomed them to host the meeting in Seat Pleasant Fire Station Engine 8 in May.
- Mayor Grant stated that we need to stop fighting each other and deal with the people who control the purse strings.
- Chief Dave McGill, Volunteer Fire Chief stated that we will not have 24 hour services.
- He stated that the EMS Service fees go to the County not the Station
- They have not had storage request for over a year. They are paying for their own items.
- Mayor Grant requested for Chief McGill to speak with Councilman Mel Franklin.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. None

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that there are nine bills that deal with WSSC being discussed in Annapolis. He stated that we need to go on the record.

- He stated that Pepco has a grid resiliency charge. He stated that if the bill passes it will be a charge to the residents. The charges go up each year.
- Councilwoman Simms stated all of the increases are suppose to be to support the bay and the fees aren't tax deductible.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Health Enterprise Zone offers four million dollars per year.
- We will be getting national recognition in the Green Building Publication in the September/October issue.

4.2. City Administrator Report:

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Winterization Grant application was sent out to ten applicants and we only received one application.
- He stated that the more applications the greater the chance to get the grant.
- He stated that the Economic Development panel narrowed it down to two applicants. They are waiting on Ms. Tignor's recommendation. He hopes to provide an update this month.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know who's working on the grants now. Mr. Ashton stated that we still have the three grant writers.
- He stated that the Council requested an update on the 704 project. He stated that Mr. Thompson was to contact the District of Columbia Public Works on the sign. The attorney is reviewing some documents on the MOU.
- He stated the I-net is still in the hands of the Cable Coalition.

4.3. Council Committee Report

- **4.3b Finance & Budget Committee**-Councilmember Higgs stated that the Committee will be meeting on Friday, February 15, 2013.
- **4.3d Human Services, Health & Education Committee**- Councilmember Simms stated that her committee met with Ms. Barnes regarding the Farmers Market. The Department of Agriculture will be having a conference on February 28, 2013. The registration fee is \$30.00 and Councilwoman Stephenson is willing to go to the conference.
- She stated that Ms. Barnes is willing to accept the Market Master position at the \$12.00 per hour. She stated that the Community Committee is still needed.
- She has requested for Mr. Ashton to confirm if the money could be in another account or the City accounts.
- She stated that the market hours and days will remain the same. She stated that Councilwoman Stephenson is working on flyers for the market.

- Councilmember Higgs stated that he is interested in attending the Farmers Market training.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that the key to good Farmers Market is the location.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that they need to have a debit card machine.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have a portable debit machine, but the monies will go into the City's account.
- It was the consensus of the Council to allow the committee to move forward on the Farmers Market.
- **4.3e. Public Safety & Civil Rights Committee**-Councilmember Kennedy stated they will be meeting again. However, some of the request will be waiting until the budget.
- Mayor Grant stated that some of the requests are circumventing the budget process.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that some of the staff's requests are coming from the Council. We need to explain to the Department Heads the proper process.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that we need to be honest with the Department Heads. If we know that the request isn't going to pass we need to tell them.

- **5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1. Public Works Vehicle Proposal

- It was stated that the request will be addressed during the budget review process.

5.2. UMD Healthy Start Program Access to Council Chambers

- It was requested for the City Clerk to coordinate dates with the City Council and for the Council to ensure that the building is secure after the event.

5.3. Approval to present Letters of Commendations to two Police Officers at the Public Session

- The City Council stated that this should not be on the agenda. The request was approved.

5.4. Status of City Grants

- Mayor Grant stated that the Grant Writers aren't engaged.
- Mr. Ashton stated that one grant is out and the Grant Writers are applying for grants.

5.5. City Demolition Procedure

- Mr. Ashton stated that the procedures are in the folders
- Mr. Ashton stated the Mrs. Andrews will come before the Council to present the procedures.
- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know if they can keep the Council informed on the blighted properties in their wards.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Request for Consideration of a Financial Advisor Position

- Councilwoman Simms requested for the item to be placed in the Governmental Affairs & Technology Committee.
- Council President Porter agreed to have the Governmental Affairs & Technology Committee discuss and review the need for the position and bring the recommendation to the Council.

6.2. Salary Adjustment in the Police Department

- Mr. Ashton requested that the item be stricken from the record.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

7.1. UMD Health Start Program Diabetes Prevention, Saturday, February 9, 2013-March 9, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall from 11:00am-12:30pm

7.2. Seat Pleasant Black History Program, Thursday, February 28, 2013, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD at 7:00pm

7.3. National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, 2660 Woodley Rd., NW, Washington, DC from March 9-13, 2013.

ADJOURN-The meeting adjourned at 9:24pm

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk